

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 175

By Roberts

A RESOLUTION to honor Ronnie Carter upon his induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through their unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Carter is one such estimable person who, having served the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) for over three decades, will be inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame on April 9, 2011; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nashville, Ronnie Carter was born on June 26, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter served with acumen and alacrity as the third Executive Director in the TSSAA's history, preceded by Gill Gideon, who held the position from 1972 to 1986, and the association's first director, A.F. Bridges, who served as Executive Director from 1946 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Carter joined the TSSAA in 1978 as an Assistant Executive Director and was promoted to the position of Executive Director in 1986, the position in which he earned the the respect of his peers for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, he was the fifth-longest tenured active Executive Director in the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), a federation which has seen approximately 180 executive directors at the other forty-nine state high school associations since Mr. Carter was hired in 1979; and

WHEREAS, no more than two other NFHS member state associations have had fewer than four executive directors since their associations were formed; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Carter devoted forty years of his career to secondary education and athletics; and

WHEREAS, even before his nearly unprecedented tenure with the TSSAA, Mr. Carter was influential in secondary education and athletics as a teacher, a coach, an official, and an administrator, teaching mathematics and coaching football, basketball, wrestling, and track for eleven years at the secondary school level in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Carter was highly involved with the NFHS during his tenure at the TSSAA, lending his support as a member of the National Federation of Football Rules Committee for twenty-five years, as Chairman of the Football Research Subcommittee of the Football Rules Committee for eight years, as a member of the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee for twelve years, as Chairman of the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee for eight years, and as a member of the NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee for four years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter is greatly respected among his former colleagues and is highly regarded as a leader in his community; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to serve as a member of the NFHS Board of Directors from 1998 to 2002, and he served as President of the NFHS during the 2001-2002 term; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Carter is grateful for the companionship of his wife, Caroline Carter, who is a retired teacher; and

WHEREAS, he is the proud father of two children and their spouses, Jim and Heather Carter and Amy and Keith Whitfield, and he is deeply admired by his grandchildren, Cole and Rylee Carter and Mary Caroline and Drew Whitfield; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Carter exemplifies the type of selfless civic leaders whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts in molding this State's youth; his positive impact on the lives of students, athletes, coaches, and administrators will continue to resound in Tennessee for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to recognize this outstanding gentleman for his lifetime of achievements which have so deservedly earned him a place in the TSSAA Hall of Fame; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the family, friends, and colleagues of Ronnie Carter in congratulating him upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, honor and commend Mr. Carter for his substantial legacy as a coach, educator, and administrator, and offer our sincere thanks for the dedication which he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.